

February 23, 2000

TO: CALFED Policy Group

FROM: Mike Madigan, Chair *M.M.*
Bay-Delta Advisory Council

SUBJECT: BDAC Assessment of Strengths/Weaknesses of Preferred Program Alternative
and Identification of Issues to be Addressed Into Implementation

Summary

The Bay-Delta Advisory Council has responsibility to "recommend the best solution alternative for implementation by the appropriate agencies, as part of the NEPA/CEQA environmental documentation process" (BDAC Charter). As part of fulfilling this responsibility, BDAC met on February 17, 2000 and assessed the strengths and weaknesses of the Preferred Program Alternative.

Sunne McPeak, Eric Hasseltine and Alex Hildebrand summarized the assessment with the following proposed motion and proposed amendment to the motion, with the understanding that more discussion was needed before a recommendation could be forwarded to the CALFED Policy Group. A revised motion will be presented to BDAC for discussion and possible endorsement at the April 13, 2000 BDAC meeting.

Proposed motion:

To endorse the preferred alternative as written and recommend aggressive progress on:

- identifying guaranteed funding for ecosystem restoration,
- guaranteeing Delta outflows that support ^{native & wildlife} fish populations, *with specific emphasis on endangered species*
- optimizing water use efficiency and links to other program elements, such as storage,
- decisions regarding storage and conveyance facilities,

Proposed amendment to motion:

Add following bullets:

- optimizing through Delta conveyance,
- accurately identifying water supply increases from actions, *Cal Fed & private party (interest) i.e. Native Conservation*
- balancing competing ^{water quality & quantity} needs within and outside the Delta,

Alex Hildebrand suggested that the Record of Decision/Certification contain a preamble that commits to resolving the issues contained in the bullets.

Description

Provided below is the assessment of the Preferred Program Alternative made by BDAC members. While a few comments focused on the preferred alternative and the EIS/EIR